



**DIRK KEMPTHORNE**  
Governor

**LOIS S. BAUER**  
Administrator

# Idaho Commission on Aging

3380 Americana Terrace, Suite 120 (83706)  
P.O. Box 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0007

Telephone (208) 334-3833  
FAX (208) 334-3033

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**TRANSMITTAL # 1**

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 25, 2003

**TO:** Idaho Workforce Development Council

**FROM:** Lois S. Bauer, Administrator, Idaho Commission on Aging 

**RE:** State Senior Employment Services Coordination Plan

**ACTION REQUESTED:** None. For informational purposes at this time.

### Background Information

The Idaho Commission on Aging (ICOA) is the administrative entity for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The SCSEP is authorized by Title V of the Older Americans Act. The purpose of the SCSEP is to foster useful part-time opportunities in community service activities for unemployed low-income persons who are 55 years or older and who have poor employment prospects, and to foster individual economic self-sufficiency by increasing the number of participants who receive the benefits of unsubsidized employment in the public and private sectors. ICOA is also the state agency designated to administer all programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The OAA was re-authorized by Congress in late 2000. The re-authorized OAA contains language providing that the Governor of each state complete an annual State Senior Employment Services Coordination Plan; the language is found at Section 503 of the Older Americans Act.

The state agency responsible for the administration of the state SCSEP grant is directed to take the lead to assure that a State Plan is prepared. The US Department of Labor, Division of Older Worker Programs, encourages the Governor to include a broad array of partners and stakeholders, such as the State Workforce Development Council, in the development of the plan.

### Plan Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to improve coordination among organizations that can be engaged in older worker activities. The planning process is intended to be a vehicle to enhance employment services for older workers.

### Plan Content: Program Years 2001 and 2002

ICOA solicited Plan input from each SCSEP grantee operating within Idaho. ICOA provided a summary of the Plan approach to the Office of the Governor, the Commissioners of the ICOA, the Area Agency on Aging Directors as well as the Idaho Workforce Development Council during the month of February 2001. Idaho's initial Senior Employment Services Coordination Plan was submitted May 16, 2001. The Plan described the coordination framework created as a result of the system building efforts to establish Idaho's One-Stop Career system. The Plan also described steps to be taken to extend and improve coordination during the Program Year ending June, 2002.

For PY 2002, ICOA and the national aging contractors operating SCSEP programs in Idaho agreed to expand coordination by focusing on the following: (1) train Older Worker Staff and at least one SCSEP enrollee within each PSA to use Benefits CheckUp (BCU) – a new service that the National Council on the Aging is developing to assist older adults, their caregivers and families in gaining access to federal, state and local programs and benefits; (2) demonstrate how the Benefits CheckUp service can be used within Idaho's One-Stop system; and (3) work collectively with our WIA partners in establishing an equitable approach for the allocation of shared costs for Idaho's One-Stop Career Centers.

### Plan Focus: Program Year 2003

The Plan for Program Year 2003 is due to the U. S. Department of Labor on June 1, 2003. However, two significant developments impact Plan preparation for the forthcoming year. The U. S. Department of Labor initiated a competitive procurement process for the national grant portion of the Senior Community Service Employment Program on November 18, 2002; state and local government entities were exempted from the competition. The application deadline was February 6, 2003; the U. S. Department of Labor will announce the successful applicants in April, 2003. The procurement process has the potential to completely change the service providers who operate the national SCSEP in Idaho.

Additionally, the U. S. Department of Labor informed ICOA that the new data to be used to assess the location of the SCSEP eligible population versus the current distribution of people being served will be available in June, 2003.

As a result, the primary coordination goal for Idaho's Program Year 2003 Plan will be to minimize disruption and promote a seamless transition for all SCSEP enrollees and host sites impacted by the procurement outcome. The secondary coordination goal will be to work with the successful applicants to assure that SCSEP resources are equitably distributed throughout Idaho based on the location of the eligible SCSEP population.